



Disorders of the Cloaca and Vent

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PROLAPSUS ("Blow-out")

This is a condition in which the cloaca becomes inverted, leaving a raw surface exposed, and neglect usually means a complete evisceration of the bird by cannibalism.

Cause: Prolapsus commonly occurs in young pullets when laying commences. It rarely occurs in well developed pullets, but is common when pullets commence laying at a very young age (4½ to 5 months). It also occurs in mature birds that become too fat. Heavy, forcing feeds (high in protein) are frequently responsible for the trouble. Constipation may be a contributing factor.

Symptoms: Red and inflamed masses are extruded through the vent. Frequently these are fouled by adhering faeces.

Treatment: Isolate the affected birds to prevent pick-out or cannibalism developing. Wash the parts with warm boracic solution, grease gently with carbolated vaseline and carefully turn the extruded cloaca inward. Repeat treatment daily until recovery.

Prevention: Develop pullets slowly and strive to bring them into production at from 5½ to 6 months of age. Feed the birds developing mash with grain until they are laying about 40%. Do not force for production. If birds become too fat, reduce the amount of whole grain fed, especially the wheat.

VENT GLEET

This is a highly contagious venereal disease, sometimes mistaken for a cankered vent.

Cause: Unknown.

Symptoms: The vent is inflamed and as a rule this inflammation results in a

yellowish, slimy encrustation of the surrounding skin and tissues. There is always a very offensive odour. Droppings are liquid and foul.

Treatment: The best treatment is to kill any infected individuals and burn the carcasses.

Prevention: The disease will appear suddenly. Prevent any spread by removing all male birds immediately and keep them isolated until all infected females are found, removed and destroyed. A periodic inspection of the flock should be made to make sure there are no freshly infected birds.

VENT CANKER

This is usually the result of an injury, often through vent picking by some of the birds.

Symptoms: A yellow encrustation around the vent, with little or no offensive odour.

Treatment: Wash the affected parts with boracic and remove encrustation; apply carbolated vaseline to the raw surfaces, and keep the bird in isolation until healing is complete. Safest practice is to destroy and burn.

NOTE:—This is not an infectious disease and there is rarely any mortality from this cause.

CLOACITIS

A disease of laying birds.

Cause: An incidental infection by almost any of the common bacteria; frequently a pullorum infection or kidney disorder.

Symptoms: A whitish diarrhoea which adheres to the feathers around the vent. The feathers on the abdomen frequently fall out or are picked out, and the abdomen becomes reddened. A whitish chalky substance is deposited on the skin below the vent. There is a sour odour. (This odour should not be confused with that of vent gleet).

Treatment: Usually little avail. Kill the affected birds.

Prevention: There is no method of prevention except where pullorum is responsible. In this case, blood testing and the eradication of infected birds will assist in reducing the incidence of cloacitis.